

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A multiple station apparatus for automated preparation of a pizza, the apparatus comprising:

5 a. a mixing device that individually prepares dough portions from flour and other fresh ingredients;

b. at least one shaping device that shapes the fresh dough to a flattened pizza base or pre-determined dimension;

c. at least one metering and dispensing device that apportions and applies a pre-determined amount of at least one topping to the pizza base to form a pizza;

d. at least one oven that bakes the pizza; and

e. a transport system that transports the dough portion, the flattened pizza base and the pizza through the multiple station apparatus.

2. A method for automated and mechanized preparation of pizza, the method comprising the steps of:

a. receiving a programmed order for a pizza, the order specifying topping requirements as selected from available offerings;

b. preparing an individual dough portion from flour and other fresh ingredients, the dough portion of volume adequate to accommodate preparation of one pizza

20 of pre-determined dimension as received in the programmed order;

c. shaping the dough portion to a flattened pizza base;

d. metering and applying topping requirements to the pizza base as received in the programmed order;

e. baking the pizza; and

f. delivering the pizza.